

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY	East Germany	REPORT	
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This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
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1. Konsum-Genossenschafts-Verband, Mecklenburg, GmbH - HA Zentralversorgung IV, Perleberg, is a commercial institution (Handels-Organization) (HO) catering exclusively to Soviet Army officers. The main office is at Schwerin; branches have been established at Heringsdorf, Neuruppin, Perleberg, Rechlin, Wittstock, and Ruegen Island.

2. Organization of the branch at Perleberg

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a. Administrative staff

General Manager	Captain Zliwankov
Deputy Manager	Schwanke (a German)
Chief of Bookkeeping Department	Lieutenant Tichonov
Chief Bookkeeper	Russian civilian, name not known.
Bookkeepers	2 Russian women, names not known.
Bookkeeper	Wackerfuss, a German woman.
Cashier	Russian woman, name not known
Interpreter	A German, name not known.

b. Personnel employed in the store

General Manager	A Russian woman, name not known
Assistant Manager	Irmgard Hohnert, a German woman from Parchim.
Assistant (commercial)	Erich Neubert, a German

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STATE	☒	ARMY	☒	NAVY	☒	AIR	☒	FBI	☒	AEC		ORR	Ev	☒		
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Assistant (commercial)	Heinz Strocker
Saleswoman	Lehmann, Erna.
Saleswoman	Retzart, Hannelore
Saleswoman	Will, first name not known.
Saleswoman	Natasha, surname not known.

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c. Various sales departments in the store

Department 1 Fabrics, German and foreign goods imported from the West.

Department 2 Men's and women's underclothing; table-linen; sheets; blankets.

Department 3 Furs, overcoats; men's, women's, and children's clothing.

Department 4 Footwear.

Department 5 Luxury bed linen and counterpanes.

Department 6 Wireless.

Department 7 Provisions.

Department 8 Bicycles, perambulators.

3. The offices and store in the Perleberg garrison are situated inside the aerodrome and occupy 3 large huts and 1 small one; one hut serves as a store, one as a store-room, and two as offices. The goods are sold exclusively to Soviet officers against German currency. The privilege of shopping on the same terms is extended to the civilian personnel employed by the firm (both German and Russian). The turnover was very large because the Russians sent the goods they purchased to Russia.

4. Prices of representative articles in DM East

A bicycle : 320 DME.

A luxury fur coat, of Russian origin : 1,200 DME.

A rabbit fur coat: 250 DME.

The most expensive "Blaupunkt" radio set : 900 DME.

Best quality 100% men's woolen suit: 350 DME.

Cheapest men's suit: 120 DME.

Best quality footwear : 120 DME.

Cheapest footwear : 56 DME.

Officers' high boots: 250 DME.

Cheapest officers' boots: 170 DME.

"Perlon" women's stockings: 12 DME.

Food in this shop was approximately 50 per cent cheaper than in similar HQ shops for German use. For example, one pound of butter in the shop for the Russians cost 4.60 DME while German civilians paid 8.50 DME per pound at their HQ shops. Moreover the shop for the Russians is always very well stocked with all sorts of goods, which is more than can be said of the HQ at which Germans shop.

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5. A saleswoman in the store earned 270 DME per month.
6. All German nationals employed in this firm were recently dismissed except for the Deputy Manager Schwanke, the interpreter, and drivers. They were replaced by Russians.

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